

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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44-171-413-0011

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June 10, 1998

BY HAND DELIVERY

EX-PARTE LETTER

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

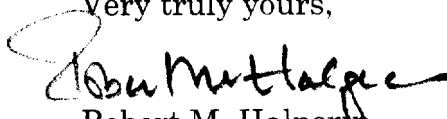
Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is being filed, in duplicate, to report that the attached letters were sent yesterday by Fran Ulmer, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Alaska, to Chairman Kennard and Commissioners Furchtgott-Roth, Ness, Powell, and Tristani. (These letters were incorrectly dated June 8, 1998.)

In the event there are any questions concerning this matter, please communicate with the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Robert M. Halperin
Counsel for the State of Alaska

Enclosure

cc: Chairman William E. Kennard
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Gloria Tristani

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TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 8, 1998

Chairman William E. Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are very distressed to learn that the FCC may be considering a proposal to halt further distribution of universal service funds for schools and libraries.

Our previous pleadings to the FCC have emphasized that universal service is a critically important national and nation-building policy. Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, was enacted to increase the availability and affordability of telecommunications services to *all* Americans, including those in rural and high cost areas, and to America's schools, libraries and rural health care providers.

Federal universal service support is especially critical for low-population, low-density states such as Alaska. In remote and high cost areas, telecommunications are the lifeline connecting communities to larger population centers and to the Nation as a whole.

Universal service support for schools and libraries is also essential if Alaska and other remote and high cost areas are to join the rest of the Nation in the Information Age. Given the remoteness, harsh terrain, difficult climate, and widely-dispersed population in Alaska, Alaskans must rely to a greater extent than most Americans on telecommunications both to educate their children and to continue to develop their own job-related skills. Schools and libraries, particularly in rural areas, must have affordable access to the Internet so that Alaskans can have the same access to information to information sources as other Americans.

The United States has a shortage of Information Technology workers. A recent Department of Commerce report estimated that we will need nearly 2 million highly skilled technology workers over the next several years. In fact, Congress is extending visas for aliens because of the employee shortages in this field. In order to grow

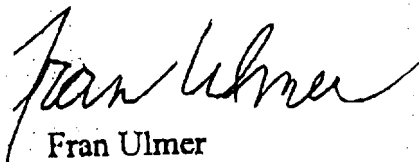
competitively and meet the needs of this industry, we must do everything possible to equip our schools and enable our students to prepare for the world of work. It is essential that we meet this challenge and provide our children with the tools to compete in the global marketplace.

For the reasons discussed above, we strongly urge the Commission not halt distribution of funds for schools and libraries. Instead, we urge the Commission to strike a balance between the needs of rural and high cost areas and the compelling concerns of schools, libraries, and rural health care providers. We believe that such a balance can be accomplished and would clearly be in the public interest.

For your information, it is our understanding that the National Governors' Association (NGA) will be writing you to express similar concerns. Alaska has been very active in the NGA's deliberations on this subject.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fran Ulmer".

Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Congressman Don Young

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 8, 1998

Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth:

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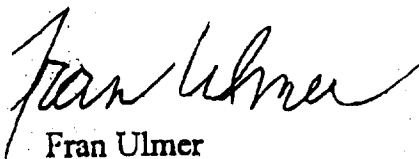
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GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 8, 1998

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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Lieutenant Governor

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Senator Frank Murkowski
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TONY KNOWLES
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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 8, 1998

Commissioner Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:

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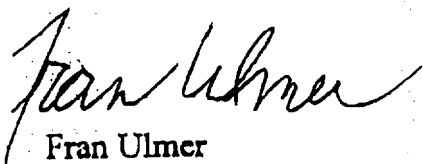
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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 8, 1998

Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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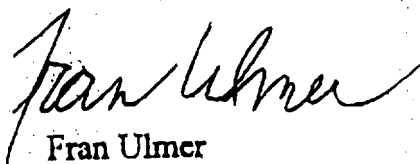
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